

he thought it right to decline. The record of Dr. Royston-Pigott's work is not contained in any great production, but lies scattered in numerous papers published in the Transactions of the Royal and other societies, and a record more abiding and more useful perhaps remains in improvements in various scientific instruments and more refined methods of research suggested by him. His ideas and discoveries were freely made public from time to time for the benefit of all who might find them useful.

He died at his residence at Eastbourne, September 14, 1889.

He was elected a Fellow of this Society, February 12, 1869.

GAETANO CACCIATORE was born at Palermo on March 17, 1814. He was the son of Catarina Emanuela Martina and Nicolo Cacciatore, the distinguished Director of the Palermo Observatory and the successor of the illustrious Piazzi.

Gaetano Cacciatore received his education at the Istituto Nautico and the University of Palermo, where he pursued his mathematical studies until the year 1834. In the following year he was placed under the guidance of his father as Second Assistant at the Observatory of Palermo, and in 1839 he succeeded to the position of First Assistant. On the death of his father in 1841 he undertook provisionally the direction of the Observatory, which position he held until the year 1843, when he was appointed Professor of Astronomy at the University of Palermo and Director of the Observatory.

In 1842 he commenced the publication of the *Annuario* of the Palermo Observatory, which contained astronomical ephemerides, meteorological observations, &c.

In 1848 he took an active part in the Sicilian revolt, and became a Deputy to the Sicilian Parliament, where he assisted in decreeing the downfall of the Bourbons. On the restoration of the reigning family, in 1849, Cacciatore refused to retract his action, and consequently he was banished from Palermo, and the Chair of Astronomy became vacant.

Cacciatore, being thus deprived of his observatory and astronomical work, took up the profession of engineer to the sulphur mines of Grotta Calda, for which he was much indebted to the generosity of the Prince of Sant Elia.

On the liberation of Sicily by Garibaldi in 1860, he was recalled to his former position at the Observatory and to the Professorship of Astronomy at the University.

Notwithstanding the long absence of ten years from his observatory and astronomical pursuits, his enthusiasm for his favourite science led him to devise means to raise the Palermo Observatory to a higher and more important position.

In 1863 he mounted under a large dome the fine equatorial refractor by Merz, of 9.8 inches aperture and  $14\frac{1}{2}$  feet focal length. In the same year he began the publication of the *Bullettino Meteorologico* of the Palermo Observatory, which up to 1872 contained astronomical notes and memoirs; after that time

this was discontinued, and the astronomical researches of the Observatory appeared in the *Memorie della Società degli Spettroscopisti*, then published by M. Tacchini at Palermo.

In 1879 Cacciatore obtained from the Government a more complete reorganisation of the Observatory into the three sections of Astrophysics, Meridian Astronomy, and Meteorology; each section having a staff of two assistants and a servant.

In 1880 he founded the Meteorological Observatory, which was established in an excellent position in the district of Valverde, about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  kilometre west of the Observatory, and supplied with the necessary instruments.

In 1882 he undertook another series of publications—viz., the *Pubblicazioni* of the Palermo Observatory, which contains the more important researches of the three sections referred to above. He published three volumes and began the fourth, which his death unfortunately prevented his completing. This has since been published by Signor Ricco, the present Provisional Director of the Observatory.

Professor Cacciatore was vice-president of the Italian commission for the observation of the solar eclipse of 1870, and was instrumental in organising the observing stations and publishing the results in a volume which appeared in 1872 under the title *Eclisse Totale di Sole del 1870*. He was President of the Faculty of Mathematical, Physical, and Natural Sciences for nine years, and for many years he was Director of the Engineering School at Palermo. He also held an important position in the municipality and the province of Palermo. Among other distinctions, Professor Cacciatore was a Commander of the Order of the Crown of Italy and an officer of the Order of St. Maurice. He was a member of the Italian Spectroscopic Society and of the Royal Academy of Palermo.

He died on June 16, 1889, to the great regret of his colleagues and friends, who loved him much for his rare goodness of heart and his exquisite courtesy of manner.

He was elected a Foreign Associate of this Society December 13, 1844.

LORENZO RESPIGHI was born at Cortemaggiore, Piacenza, on October 7, 1824, and was the son of Luigi Respighi and Giuseppina Rossetti. He studied at Parma and at the University of Bologna, where, in 1847, he took his degree in philosophy and mathematics. In 1849 he was appointed Professor of Mechanics and Hydraulics at the University of Bologna. Two years afterwards he became Professor of Astronomy, and in 1855 was appointed Director of the Observatory at Bologna.

Most of Professor Respighi's voluminous scientific work is published in the transactions of the Istituto di Bologna, the Accademia dei Nuovi Lincei, and the Accademia dei Lincei. His earliest publications were mainly meteorological.

In 1862 and 1863 he discovered three comets, the observa-